



# An Off-Grid Lake Retreat Tucked in the Adirondack Mountains

REMOTE LAKE CABIN  
MOUNTAIN LAKE,  
NEW YORK

At the edge of a lake in the Adirondacks sits this off-grid cabin, built to sit lightly on the land. The family who built the retreat has a special affinity and connection to the area with roots dating back five generations, so building in a way that respected the local landscape was paramount. No road access meant that everything, including materials and machinery, had to be floated in by small boat or raft.

Every effort was made to reduce impact and keep the site as pristine as possible. Set in the heart of a densely wooded forest, the cabin was designed to minimize the number of trees to be felled, and those that were cut were saved to be used in the woodstove. Conventional machinery was



not an option in this remote location, leading to alternative, lower-impact building methods. The result is a cabin that feels like an extension of the landscape. Elevated in the trees, it is fortified by post-and-beam construction that uses local hemlock which was custom milled nearby. Beautiful details, like elegant dovetail joints, are found throughout the space, and the rough-sawn local wood that serves as the cabin's primary material infuses the space with a rich texture and warmth.

The design focuses on natural light to reduce the need for electricity, but when needed, power is provided by a remote solar field. As the night gets darker, candles flicker in the kitchen. The main living space extends outside onto the deck through a large glass window and door, and in the bathroom, the windows open straight into the forest.

The modest 780-square-foot (72-square-meter) cabin houses five people, and sustainability was taken into consideration at every turn with zero-low VOC finishes, wood heat, natural light, and passive solar design. These sustainable touches are yet another sign of respect for the land and make for a beautiful space that considers the well-being of its inhabitants.